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[PUBLIC LAW 900—80TH CONGRESS]

[CHAPTER 830—2D SESSION]

[H. R. 6916]

AN ACT

To provide for permanent postal rates and to provide pay increases for Government employees.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That this Act shall be cited as the "Postal Rate Revision and Federal Employees Salary Act of 1948".

TITLE I—ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION FOR POSTMASTERS AND EMPLOYEES IN THE FIELD SERVICE OF THE POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT

SEC. 101. All postmasters, officers, and employees in the postal service whose rates of compensation are prescribed by the Act entitled "An Act to reclassify the salaries of postmasters, officers, and employees of the Postal Service; to establish uniform procedures for computing compensation; and for other purposes", approved July 6, 1945, as amended, shall receive additional compensation at the rate of \$450 per annum: *Provided*, That employees paid on an hourly or part-time basis shall receive additional compensation at the rate of 25 cents per hour: *Provided further*, That postmasters at post offices of the fourth class shall receive additional compensation at the rate of a sum per annum equal to 25 per centum of their basic annual compensation.

SEC. 102. The provisions of this Act shall not apply to skilled-trades employees of the mail-equipment shops, job cleaners in first- and second-class post offices, and employees who are paid on a fee or contract basis.

SEC. 103. (a) Sections 17 (e) and 22 (d) of such Act of July 6, 1945, as amended, are each amended by striking out "6 cents per mile" and inserting in lieu thereof "7 cents per mile".

(b) Section 22 (d) of such Act of July 6, 1945, as amended, is further amended by striking out "75 cents" and inserting in lieu thereof "90 cents".

(c) The Act entitled "An Act to increase the equipment maintenance of rural carriers 1 cent per mile per day traveled by each rural carrier for a period of two years, and for other purposes" (Public Law 467, Eightieth Congress), is hereby repealed.

SEC. 104. This title shall take effect on the first day of the first pay period which begins after June 30, 1948.

TITLE II—POSTAL RATE REVISION

AIR MAIL

SEC. 201. The rate of postage on all domestic air mail as defined in Public Law 730, Seventy-ninth Congress, shall, except in the case of postal cards and private mailing or post cards, be 6 cents for each

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ounce or fraction thereof. The rate of postage on postal cards and private mailing or post cards (conforming to the conditions prescribed by the Act entitled "An Act to amend the postal laws relating to use of postal cards", approved May 19, 1898 (U. S. C., 1940 edition, title 39, sec. 281)), when sent by air mail, shall be 4 cents each.

THIRD-CLASS MAIL

SEC. 202. The rate of postage on third-class matter shall be 2 cents for the first two ounces or fraction thereof, and 1 cent for each additional ounce or fraction thereof up to and including eight ounces in weight, except that the rate of postage on books and catalogs of twenty-four pages or more, seeds, cuttings, bulbs, roots, scions, and plants not exceeding eight ounces in weight shall be 1½ cents for each two ounces or fraction thereof: *Provided*, That upon payment of a fee of \$10 for each calendar year or portion thereof and under such regulations as the Postmaster General may establish for the collection of the lawful revenue and for facilitating the handling of such matter in the mails, it shall be lawful to accept for transmission in the mails, separately addressed identical pieces of third-class matter in quantities of not less than twenty pounds, or of not less than two hundred pieces, subject to pound rates of postage applicable to the entire bulk mailed at one time: *Provided further*, That the rate of postage on third-class matter mailed in bulk under the foregoing provision shall be 14 cents for each pound or fraction thereof with a minimum charge per piece of 1 cent, except that in the case of books and catalogs of twenty-four pages or more, seeds, cuttings, bulbs, roots, scions, and plants the rate shall be 10 cents for each pound or fraction thereof with a minimum charge per piece of 1 cent: *And provided further*, That pieces or packages of such size or form as to prevent ready facing and tying in bundles and requiring individual distributing throughout shall be subject to a minimum charge of 3 cents each.

CONTROLLED CIRCULATION PUBLICATIONS

SEC. 203. Publications containing twenty-four pages or more issued at regular intervals of four or more times a year, 25 per centum or more of whose pages are devoted to text or reading matter and not more than 75 per centum to advertising matter, which are circulated free or mainly free, may, upon authorization by the Postmaster General and under such regulations as he may prescribe, be accepted for mailing at the postage rate of 10 cents a pound or fraction thereof, computed on the entire bulk mailed at one time, but not less than 1 cent per piece, provided the copies of such publications are presented for mailing made up according to States, cities, and routes as directed by the Postmaster General: *Provided*, That publications owned and controlled by one or several individuals or business concerns and conducted as an auxiliary to and essentially for the advancement of the main business or calling of those who own or control them shall not be accepted under this section.

FOURTH-CLASS (PARCEL POST) MAIL

SEC. 204. (a) On fourth-class matter (limit of weight over eight ounces to seventy pounds) the rate of postage except as herein provided for catalogs (limit of weight over eight ounces up to and includ-

ing ten pounds), books, and library books, shall be by the pound as hereinafter provided, the postage in all cases to be prepaid by stamps affixed thereto or as otherwise prescribed by the Postmaster General.

(b) The rate of postage on matter of the fourth class shall be as follows:

(1) On all matter mailed at the post office from which a rural route starts, for delivery on such route, or mailed at any point on such route for delivery at any other point thereon, or at the office from which the route starts, or on any rural route starting therefrom, and on all matter mailed at a city-carrier office, or at any point within its delivery limits, for delivery by carriers from that office, or at any office for local delivery, the postage shall be 10 cents for the first pound or fraction thereof, 1 cent for each additional pound or fraction thereof up to and including ten pounds, and $\frac{3}{4}$ cent for each pound or fraction thereof exceeding ten pounds.

(2) For delivery within the first and second zones, except as provided for in paragraph (1), and except when the distance by the shortest regular mail route from the office of origin to the office of delivery is three hundred miles or more in which case the rates of postage shall be the same as for delivery within the third zone, 12 cents for the first pound or fraction thereof, $2\frac{1}{10}$ cents for each additional pound or fraction thereof up to and including ten pounds, and 2 cents for each pound or fraction thereof exceeding ten pounds.

(3) For delivery within the third zone, 13 cents for the first pound or fraction thereof, 3 cents for each additional pound or fraction thereof up to and including ten pounds, and $2\frac{8}{10}$ cents for each pound or fraction thereof exceeding ten pounds.

(4) For delivery within the fourth zone, 14 cents for the first pound or fraction thereof, $4\frac{1}{2}$ cents for each additional pound or fraction thereof up to and including ten pounds, and $4\frac{1}{4}$ cents for each pound or fraction thereof exceeding ten pounds.

(5) For delivery within the fifth zone, 15 cents for the first pound or fraction thereof, 6 cents for each additional pound or fraction thereof up to and including ten pounds, and $5\frac{1}{2}$ cents for each pound or fraction thereof exceeding ten pounds.

(6) For delivery within the sixth zone, 16 cents for the first pound or fraction thereof, $7\frac{1}{2}$ cents for each additional pound or fraction thereof up to and including ten pounds, and $7\frac{1}{4}$ cents for each pound or fraction thereof exceeding ten pounds.

(7) For delivery within the seventh zone, 17 cents for the first pound or fraction thereof, $9\frac{1}{2}$ cents for each additional pound or fraction thereof up to and including ten pounds, and $9\frac{1}{4}$ cents for each pound or fraction thereof exceeding ten pounds.

(8) For delivery within the eighth zone, 18 cents for the first pound or fraction thereof, $11\frac{1}{2}$ cents for each additional pound or fraction thereof up to and including ten pounds, and $11\frac{1}{4}$ cents for each pound or fraction thereof exceeding ten pounds.

(9) On parcels measuring more than 84 inches but not more than one hundred inches in length and girth combined the minimum postage charge shall be the zone charge applicable to a ten-pound parcel.

(c) Catalogs and similar printed advertising matter in bound form weighing more than eight ounces but not exceeding ten pounds shall be subject to postage rates based on the eight parcel-post zones as follows:

(1) When mailed at the post office from which a rural route starts, for delivery on such route, or mailed at any point on such route for delivery at any other point thereon, or at the office from which the route starts, or on any rural route starting therefrom, and when mailed at a city-carrier office, or at any point within its delivery limits, for delivery by carriers from that office, or at any office for local delivery, the postage shall be 7½ cents for the first pound or fraction thereof and 1 cent for each additional pound.

(2) For delivery within the first and second zones, except as provided for in paragraph (1), and except when the distance by the shortest regular mail route from the office of origin to the office of delivery is three hundred miles or more in which case the rates of postage shall be the same as for delivery within the third zone, 8 cents for the first pound or fraction thereof and 1½ cents for each additional pound or fraction thereof.

(3) For delivery within the third zone, 9 cents for the first pound or fraction thereof and 2 cents for each additional pound or fraction thereof.

(4) For delivery within the fourth zone, 10 cents for the first pound or fraction thereof and 2½ cents for each additional pound or fraction thereof.

(5) For delivery within the fifth zone, 12 cents for the first pound or fraction thereof and 3 cents for each additional pound or fraction thereof.

(6) For delivery within the sixth zone, 13 cents for the first pound or fraction thereof and 4 cents for each additional pound or fraction thereof.

(7) For delivery within the seventh zone, 14 cents for the first pound or fraction thereof and 5 cents for each additional pound or fraction thereof.

(8) For delivery within the eighth zone, 15 cents for the first pound or fraction thereof and 6 cents for each additional pound or fraction thereof.

(d) Books, permanently bound for preservation consisting wholly of reading matter or reading matter with incidental blank spaces for student's notations and containing no advertising matter other than incidental announcements of books and when in parcels not exceeding seventy pounds in weight, may be sent at the postage rate of 8 cents for the first pound or fraction thereof and 4 cents for each additional pound or fraction thereof.

(e) Books, consisting wholly of reading matter and containing no advertising matter other than incidental announcements of books, when sent by public libraries, organizations, or associations not organized for profit and none of the net income of which inures to the benefit of any private stockholder or individual, as a service to county or other unit libraries or as a loan to readers or when returned by the latter libraries or readers to such public libraries, organizations, or associations shall be charged with postage at the rate of 4 cents for the first pound or fraction thereof and 1 cent for each additional pound or

fraction thereof, except, that the rates now or hereafter prescribed for third- or fourth-class matter shall apply in every case where such rate is lower than the rate prescribed in this subsection for books under this classification: *Provided*, That this rate shall apply only to such books as are addressed for local delivery, for delivery in the first, second, or third zone, or within the State in which mailed. Public libraries, organizations, or associations before being entitled to the foregoing rates shall furnish to the Postmaster General, under such regulations as he may prescribe, satisfactory evidence that none of their net income inures to the benefit of any private stockholder or individual.

(f) To procure the most expeditious handling and transportation practicable of mail matter of the fourth class, special-handling stamps shall be affixed thereto, in addition to the regular postage, in accordance with the following schedule: Matter weighing not more than two pounds, 15 cents; matter weighing more than two but not more than ten pounds, 20 cents; matter weighing more than ten pounds, 25 cents: *Provided*, That, under such regulations as the Postmaster General may prescribe, ordinary stamps of equivalent value may be accepted in lieu of the special-handling stamps herein specified.

SPECIAL DELIVERY

Sec. 205. To procure the most expeditious handling and transportation practicable and the immediate delivery of mail matter at the office of address, special-delivery stamps shall be affixed thereto, in addition to the regular postage, in accordance with the following schedule: Matter weighing not more than two pounds, if of the first class, 15 cents; if of any other class, 25 cents. Matter weighing more than two but not more than ten pounds, if of the first class, 25 cents; if of any other class, 35 cents. Matter weighing more than ten pounds, if of the first class, 35 cents; if of any other class, 45 cents: *Provided*, That, under such regulations as the Postmaster General may prescribe, ordinary postage stamps of equivalent value may be accepted in lieu of the special-delivery stamps.

MONEY ORDERS

Sec. 206. A money order shall not be issued for more than \$100, and the fees for domestic money orders shall be as follows: For orders less than \$5 and 1 cent, 10 cents; for orders from \$5 and 1 cent up to and including \$10, 15 cents; for orders from \$10 and 1 cent up to and including \$50, 25 cents; for orders from \$50 and 1 cent up to and including \$100, 35 cents.

POSTAL NOTES

Sec. 207. (a) The Postmaster General may authorize postmasters at such offices as he shall designate, under such regulations as he shall prescribe, to issue and pay money orders not exceeding \$10, to be known as postal notes. The fee for issuance thereof shall be 8 cents each.

(b) Postal notes shall be valid for two calendar months from the last day of the month of their issue, but thereafter may be paid by the Postmaster General or refund may be made in case of loss, upon evidence satisfactory to him, under such regulations as he may prescribe: *Provided*, That no claim for the amount of a postal note will be considered unless filed within one year from the last day of the month of

issue. Postal notes shall not be negotiable or transferrable through endorsement.

REGISTERED MAIL

SEC. 208. (a) Mail matter shall be registered on the application of the party posting the same. The registry fees, which shall be in addition to the regular postage, and the limits of indemnity therefor within the maximum indemnity provided by this subsection, shall be as follows: For registry indemnity not exceeding \$5, 25 cents; for registry indemnity exceeding \$5 but not exceeding \$25, 35 cents; for registry indemnity exceeding \$25 but not exceeding \$50, 40 cents; for registry indemnity exceeding \$50 but not exceeding \$75, 45 cents; for registry indemnity exceeding \$75 but not exceeding \$100, 50 cents; for registry indemnity exceeding \$100 but not exceeding \$200, 60 cents; for registry indemnity exceeding \$200 but not exceeding \$300, 70 cents; for registry indemnity exceeding \$300 but not exceeding \$400, 85 cents; for registry indemnity exceeding \$400 but not exceeding \$500, \$1; for registry indemnity exceeding \$500 but not exceeding \$600, \$1.10; for registry indemnity exceeding \$600 but not exceeding \$700, \$1.20; for registry indemnity exceeding \$700 but not exceeding \$800, \$1.30; for registry indemnity exceeding \$800 but not exceeding \$900, \$1.40; for registry indemnity exceeding \$900 but not exceeding \$1,000, \$1.50.

(b) For registered mail having a declared value in excess of the maximum indemnity covered by the registry fee paid, there shall be charged additional fees (known as "surcharges") as follows: When the declared value exceeds the maximum indemnity covered by the registry fee paid by not more than \$50, 2 cents; by more than \$50 but not more than \$100, 3 cents; by more than \$100 but not more than \$200, 4 cents; by more than \$200 but not more than \$400, 6 cents; by more than \$400 but not more than \$600, 7 cents; by more than \$600 but not more than \$800, 8 cents; by more than \$800 but less than \$1,000, 10 cents. If the excess of the declared value over the maximum indemnity covered by the registry fee paid is \$1,000 or more, the additional fees for each \$1,000 or part of \$1,000 on articles destined to points within the several zones applicable to fourth-class matter shall be as follows: For local delivery or for delivery within the first zone, 11 cents; for delivery within the second zone, 12 cents; for delivery within the third zone, 14 cents; for delivery within the fourth zone, 15 cents; for delivery within the fifth or sixth zone, 16 cents; for delivery within the seventh or eighth zone, 18 cents.

(c) For insured mail treated as registered mail having a declared value in excess of the maximum indemnity covered by the insurance fee paid, there shall be charged additional fees (known as "surcharges") as follows: When the declared value exceeds the maximum indemnity covered by the insurance fee paid by not more than \$50, 1 cent; by more than \$50 but not more than \$100, 2 cents; by more than \$100 but not more than \$200, 3 cents; by more than \$200 but not more than \$400, 4 cents; by more than \$400 but not more than \$600, 5 cents; by more than \$600 but not more than \$800, 6 cents; by more than \$800 but less than \$1,000, 7 cents. If the excess of the declared value over the maximum indemnity covered by the insurance fee paid is \$1,000 or more,

the additional fee for each \$1,000 or part of \$1,000 on articles destined to points within the several zones applicable to fourth-class matter shall be as follows: For local delivery or for delivery within the first zone, 8 cents; for delivery within the second zone, 9 cents; for delivery within the third zone, 10 cents; for delivery within the fourth zone, 11 cents; for delivery within the fifth or sixth zone, 12 cents; for delivery within the seventh or eighth zone, 13 cents.

(d) All such fees shall be accounted for in such manner as the Postmaster General shall direct. Mail matter for the official business of the Post Office Department which requires registering shall be registered free of charge, and pass through the mails free of charge.

RETURN RECEIPTS FOR REGISTERED MAIL

SEC. 209. Whenever the sender of any registered mail shall so request, and upon payment of a fee of 5 cents at the time of mailing or of 10 cents subsequent to the time of mailing, a receipt shall be obtained for such registered mail, showing to whom and when the same was delivered, which receipt shall be returned to the sender, and be received in the courts as prima facie evidence of such delivery: *Provided*, That upon payment of the additional sum of 26 cents at the time of mailing of any such registered mail, a receipt shall be obtained for such registered mail, showing to whom, when, and the address where the same was delivered, which receipt shall be returned to the sender, and be received in the courts as prima facie evidence of such delivery: *Provided further*, That no refund shall be made of fees paid for return receipts for registered mail where the failure to furnish the sender a return receipt or the equivalent is not due to the fault of the postal service.

FEES FOR INSURED MAIL

SEC. 210. The fees for insurance, which shall be in addition to the regular postage, and the limits of indemnity therefor within the maximum indemnity provided by this section, shall be as follows: 5 cents for indemnification not exceeding \$5; 10 cents for indemnification exceeding \$5 but not exceeding \$10; 15 cents for indemnification exceeding \$10 but not exceeding \$25; 20 cents for indemnification exceeding \$25 but not exceeding \$50; 25 cents for indemnification exceeding \$50 but not exceeding \$100; 30 cents for indemnification exceeding \$100 but not exceeding \$200. Whenever the sender of an insured article of mail shall so request, and upon payment of a fee of 5 cents at the time of mailing or of 10 cents subsequent to the time of mailing, a receipt shall be obtained for such insured mail, showing to whom and when the same was delivered, which receipt shall be returned to the sender, and be received in the courts as prima facie evidence of such delivery: *Provided*, That upon payment of the additional sum of 26 cents at the time of mailing of any such insured article of mail, a receipt shall be obtained for such insured mail, showing to whom, when, and the address where the same was delivered, which receipt shall be returned to the sender, and be received in the courts as prima facie evidence of such delivery: *Provided further*, That no refund shall be made of fees paid for return receipts for insured mail where the failure to furnish the sender a return receipt or the equivalent is not due to the fault of the postal service.

FEES FOR COLLECT-ON-DELIVERY MAIL

SEC. 211. The fees for collect-on-delivery service for sealed domestic mail matter of any class bearing postage at the first-class rate and for domestic third- or fourth-class mail matter shall, in addition to the regular postage and any other required fees, be as follows: 20 cents for collections and indemnity not exceeding \$2.50; 25 cents for collections and indemnity exceeding \$2.50 but not exceeding \$5; 35 cents for collections and indemnity exceeding \$5 but not exceeding \$25; 45 cents for collections and indemnity exceeding \$25 but not exceeding \$50; 55 cents for collections and indemnity exceeding \$50 but not exceeding \$100; 60 cents for collections and indemnity exceeding \$100 but not exceeding \$150; and 65 cents for collections and indemnity exceeding \$150 but not exceeding \$200. The fee for notifying the sender or his representative of inability to deliver a collect-on-delivery article shall be 5 cents.

RESTRICTION IN DELIVERY

SEC. 212. The Postmaster General, under such regulations as he may prescribe, is authorized to collect an additional fee of 20 cents for effecting the delivery by carrier or otherwise of domestic registered, insured, or collect-on-delivery mail, the delivery of which is restricted to the addressee only, or to the addressee or order: *Provided*, That no refund shall be made of fees paid for this service unless request for refund is made and erroneous delivery of the article or articles was made by the postal service or nondelivery of the article or articles was due to some fault of the postal service.

REGISTERED COLLECT-ON-DELIVERY MAIL

SEC. 213. (a) The fee for collect-on-delivery service for registered sealed domestic mail of any class bearing postage at the first-class rate shall, in addition to the regular postage and any other required fees, be 55 cents for collections and indemnity not exceeding \$10; 70 cents for collections and indemnity exceeding \$10 but not exceeding \$50; 90 cents for collections and indemnity exceeding \$50 but not exceeding \$100; and \$1.15 for collections and indemnity exceeding \$100 but not exceeding \$200. The maximum amount of charges collectible on any registered sealed domestic collect-on-delivery article shall be \$200.

(b) When indemnity in excess of \$200 is desired, the fee for such registered sealed domestic collect-on-delivery mail shall, in addition to the regular postage and any other required fees, be \$1.20 for indemnity exceeding \$200 but not exceeding \$300; \$1.25 for indemnity exceeding \$300 but not exceeding \$400; \$1.30 for indemnity exceeding \$400 but not exceeding \$500; \$1.35 for indemnity exceeding \$500 but not exceeding \$600; \$1.40 for indemnity exceeding \$600 but not exceeding \$700; \$1.45 for indemnity exceeding \$700 but not exceeding \$800; and \$1.55 for indemnity exceeding \$800 but not exceeding \$1,000.

SEC. 214. This title shall take effect on January 1, 1949.

TITLE III—FEDERAL EMPLOYEES PAY INCREASES

SEC. 301. Except as provided in section 303, each officer and employee of the Federal Government, and each officer and employee of the District of Columbia municipal government, whose rate of compensation

is increased by section 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6 of the Federal Employees Pay Act of 1946 shall receive additional compensation at the rate of \$330 per annum: *Provided, That* any employee paid on an hourly or part-time basis shall receive additional compensation at the rate of 20 cents per hour.

SEC. 302. The additional compensation provided by this Act in the case of officers and employees whose rates of compensation are fixed in accordance with the Classification Act of 1923, as amended, shall not be construed to be an "equivalent increase" in compensation within the meaning of section 7 (b) (1) of such Act, as amended.

SEC. 303. (a) Section 603 (b) of the Federal Employees Pay Act of 1945, as amended, is amended by striking out "\$10,000" where it first appears in such section and inserting in lieu thereof "\$10,330".

(b) Section 7 (b) of the Federal Employees Pay Act of 1946 is amended by striking out "\$10,000" and inserting in lieu thereof "\$10,330".

(c) No officer or employee shall, by reason of any provision of this title be paid with respect to any pay period, basic compensation, or basic compensation plus any additional compensation provided by the Federal Employees Pay Act of 1945, as amended, at a rate in excess of \$10,330 per annum.

SEC. 304. The provisions of this Act granting an increase in compensation to employees of the United States and of the District of Columbia shall not apply to any employee in or under the municipal government of the District of Columbia prior to the time that legislation providing adequate revenues to meet the obligation in the District of Columbia is enacted by the Congress and becomes effective.

SEC. 305. This title shall take effect on the first day of the first pay period which begins after June 30, 1948.

Approved July 3, 1948.